

## Wolf's Call: commander answers airmen's questions, concerns about life, work at Kunsan

*Editors Note:* During Dec. 20 airman and NCO calls, airmen presented the following questions to 8th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Philip Breedlove. The "Wolf" regularly hosts such airman's calls or internal "town hall" forums to find ways to improve the Wolf Pack's quality of life. Below is a sample of the questions and answers.

**Q:** I heard that we are going to a night flying schedule, and as such, the entire base will go to a later schedule for the regular workday. Is this true?

**A:** Basically, it is true. However, this will not be the case for everyone. If a shop or unit is required to support flying operations they most likely will be changing hours. Also, if maintainers and pilots need support from other base agencies at night, they most likely will be affected also. The change will occur after the Operational Readiness Inspection and it'll take some flexibility on everyone's part as we adjust to a night flying schedule.

**Q:** I heard that we are going to get 100 percent tuition assistance for college courses. When will this occur?

**A:** We are told by Headquarters Pacific Air Forces that while the 100 percent tuition assistance has been approved, the Air Staff is now seeking a way to fund it. Until the funding is available and distributed to the bases, we must continue tuition assistance at the 75 percent rate. As soon as we are notified that the monies for 100 percent tuition assistance have been received and distributed to the bases, we will make every effort to inform the base populace through every media source available. However, in the interim, please continue to take courses and further your education. Even 75 percent tuition assistance is a great deal!

**Q:** Dorm 609 is in need of significant repairs. Why can't we get money to fix it? We continue to have every visiting general go to my dorm but nothing ever results from it.

**A:** We have requested \$3.2 million of quality of life funding for two years in a row without success. Dorm 609 remains at the top of the Kunsan and PACAF QOL funding list. Due to this delay in the full renovation, we have taken action to improve the facility. New dayroom furniture was purchased and installed on the first floor. A new roof was also funded and is under construction. We dedicated \$75,000 to pay for new carpet and paint for the hallways. Beyond these minor upgrades, we're moving members out of this dorm into other dorms, primarily Dorm 611, in order to bring down the number of people doubled up in rooms. We'll continue to find low cost ways to improve living conditions until the full renovation project can be funded.

**Q:** What are the curfew hours for

Kunsan City?

**A:** The curfew hours for Kunsan City are the same as those for A-Town. During holidays and Fridays – Saturdays it's 2:30 a.m. and Sundays – Thursdays it's 12:30 a.m.. People must be in their place of residence when curfew begins, not heading home during curfew.

**Q:** Why can't we get another automated teller machine (ATM) on base? The lines are always long and the addition of another ATM would be a tremendous quality-of-life improvement.

**A:** I will work with the Community Bank, 8th Services Squadron and the 8th Civil Engineer Squadron about trying to get a third ATM located in the Loring Club. According to the current contract, Community Bank is responsible for providing the ATM machine while the Air Force is responsible for providing a place to house the ATM. The decision whether we can get a third machine is based on customer usage and is a business decision that will be made by the Community Bank.

**Q:** My wife is coming to visit me Feb 7-25. Can she stay in billeting? I'm

concerned because of the exercise that she might have to go downtown and I will not be able to get off base to see her during that time. What should I do?

**A:** Lodging can accommodate family members on a "space available" basis. Space A reservations may be made up to 24-hours in advance and can be made for three nights at a time. Priority is given to individuals traveling on official orders. You can call Staff Sgt. Denise Aviles, 8th SVS lodging reservations at 782-0292 or their front desk at 782-4604, to make reservations.

**Q:** I got married on mid-tour, but finance says I can't get family separation allowance like all the other married people because I decided to get married on mid-tour. Can you tell me why I'm not authorized this entitlement?

**A:** Per regulations (DoDFMR 7073-1, Vol 7A, Chapter 27, Table 27-5), a member must have had a household with the spouse prior to date of order sending the member to Kunsan Air Base. The regulation states that since a member hasn't set up a household with the spouse and they were not interdependent on each other to sustain the household they are not eligible to receive the entitlement. FSA is to help maintain the household and handle other costs such as utility

bills.

**Q:** I'm divorced and still pay \$400 child support and alimony but don't get a family separation allowance. I think this is unfair because I am totally broke. Can you help me, please?

**A:** At present there is no relief for divorcees paying child support. Per regulations (DoDFMR 7073-1, Vol. 7A, Chapter 27), a member must have legal custody of a child in order for that child to fall under the definition of primary dependent. The member in question is receiving Basic Allowance for Housing-diff, which is for members like him.

**Q:** At RAF Lakenheath, England, my wife can only accept morale calls at certain times? These times do not coincide with the times I'm allowed to make my calls here? What should I do?

**A:** Any individuals experiencing this situation should have their squadron commander submit a waiver letter to the 8th Communications Squadron commander requesting to make morale calls during the "peak calling period." Another answer would be for the spouse at the distant location, in this case RAF Lakenheath, to initiate the morale call.

**Q:** Kunsan Internet service is too expensive? Why can't the price be lowered?

**A:** Currently, AT&T is the only company that will provide Internet service to Kunsan, but we're continually seeking competition to find the lowest prices for the troops. Unlimited service is not available at this time due to the high operational costs. The current package the Cyber Café offers is \$9.90 a month for 15 hours and \$30 a month for 90 hours. These prices are the norm throughout the Pacific Command. However, Army Air Force Exchange Service will continue to look and invest in contracts that will benefit the Kunsan customers, currently AT&T provides the best internet service and price for Kunsan.

**Q:** When are we getting new washers, dryers and mattresses?

**A:** The new washers and dryers have been installed, but not every washer and dryer is being replaced. All washers and dryers should be working, but if you happen to find one that's not working, please bring it to the attention of your dorm manager. Also, PACAF has recently allocated \$436,000 to be used towards new dorm appliances.

We have new mattresses. If you need a new mattress, talk to your dorm manager and he or she will try to get one for you. However, please remember we do not replace "used" mattresses; we only replace those that are no longer serviceable.

**Q:** The smoking policy in the bowling center is unfair. Most of the bowling alley is designated a smoking area while a smaller section is for non-smokers. It seems the Air Force is making life more convenient for the smokers and sending the wrong message signifying tacit approval.

**A:** DoD guidance requires all Non Appropriated Fund facilities to be smoke free by Dec. 31 2002. We are actively working toward making the bowling center a smoke-free environment in accordance with the DoD mandate. In the short term, the bowling center and 8th Services Squadron leadership is looking into a reduction of the smoking area within the bowling center. They have also ordered several of the latest air purifiers. The long-term plan is to add an additional room to the bowling center, next to the slot-machine room. The slot-machines will be relocated to the new room and the existing slot room will become a smoking lounge. At that time all smoking other than in the lounge will be eliminated.

**Q:** Why can't the gym stay open until 1 a.m.? This change will allow the swingshift workers to get a workout in.

**A:** Our hours of operation are based on customer use. Unfortunately, sometimes this inconveniences some of our swingshift workers. By regulation we are required to remain open for no fewer than 112 hours per week. Currently, the fitness center is open 117.5 hours per week. A headcount survey indicated the average customer use of the fitness center at 10 p.m. is 18 patrons and trails off to 10 customers at 11 p.m. At this time we are not prepared to extend hours of operation until an increased customer demand justifies extended hours.

**Q:** I tried to exchange currency at the Loring Club cashier's cage but they gave me a hard time because I'm not a club member. Can you tell me why?

**A:** Club members and the dues they pay monthly fund the overhead for our staff, to include the cashier's cage. Cashing checks and exchanging currency is a club member benefit. As a non-club member you may cash checks at the base exchange or get Won from the ATM, credit union, base bank or money changers downtown. We apologize, however some privileges are for club members only.

**To be continued in the Feb. 9 edition of the Wolf Pack Warrior**

